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*Einige therapeutische Versuche mit der Hypnose.* SPERLING. Neurol. Centralblatt, June 1, July 1 and 15, 1888.

Dr. Sperling has applied hypnotism in a number of cases with good results, and in these articles describes eight of them. Half were of hysterio-epilepsy, two more of hysterical paralysis, and the last two of hysteria in connection with the after effects of malaria and typhus. The first case, that of a young man, is particularly interesting. He came under observation in September, 1887, with well marked fits. His heredity was good and the disease of traumatic origin. Electrical treatment had to be given up after a single application, and hypnotizing was tried as an experiment. He proved very susceptible to suggestion and showed improvement at once. The hypnotizing was followed up with other vigorous treatment, and though he relapsed three times from sufficient causes, by the first of January, 1888, he was recovered and at his place as head bookkeeper of a large business house. The part played by the hypnosis, which was produced about eight times only, was the prevention of the fits, thus paving the way for other treatment. The change which it made seems to have been the substitution of lighter equivalents—at least, several attacks of dizziness and faintness, and, later, two of griping and diarrhoea, were so regarded by the doctor. The next case was of a married woman whose first seizure followed the relation of a horrible incident to her when in a state of nervous exhaustion following child-birth. The disease later became chronic. The third was a young woman of neurotic heredity who suddenly fell in a fit on the street. With both these the conditions of home life were such as to continue the disease rather than favor its cure, but the good effects of hypnotic treatment were clear, especially in the last, where practically no other remedy was employed. The fourth case was under treatment for too short a time to count for anything except an experiment. In the fifth and sixth the treatment was apparently completely successful, and, perhaps, as far as mere functional disturbance was concerned, in the seventh and eighth. The author does not hold hypnotizing for a panacea; it has failed in many cases, though he has not reported all in which it has been beneficial. And even if it should prove to accomplish only a temporary relief, or one to be completed by other remedies, it is not an unimportant gain to therapeutics. In summary of his present views, he says that the systematic use of hypnotism is justified as a last resort; that its use either in treatment or investigation belongs to the physician; that the therapeutic effect depends on a right knowledge of the disease, on the way of hypnotizing and suggesting, and on the personal influence of the physician over the patient; that definite rules cannot be made for its application, but that when rightly applied it is not, in his experience, followed with bad consequences.

*L'hypnotisme et l'École de Nancy.* BERNHEIM. Revue de l'Hypnotisme, May, 1888.

This article is a brief and definite statement, by one of its leaders, of eight of the distinctive points of the school of Nancy. The points are in substance as follows: 1. They do not find Charcot's three stages, or any other physiological phenomena, without conscious or unconscious suggestion, and do find them with suggestion. 2. Hypnosis of *les grandes hystériques* is the same as with other subjects.

3. Hysteria is not good material for the study of hypnotism. 4. The hypnotic state is not a neurosis; its phenomena can be produced in normal sleep with many subjects. 5. This state is not peculiar to, nor more easy to produce with the neuropathic than with others. 6. The school does not hold, as has been said of them, that *all* subjects in the somnambulant state are pure automata and controlled by the will of the hypnotizer. 7. All processes for inducing hypnotism reduce to suggestion; and finally, 8, suggestion is the key of every hypnotic phenomenon.

*De l'analogie entre l'état hypnotique et l'état normal.* J. DELBŒUF.  
Revue de l'Hypnotisme, April, 1888.

Prof. Delbœuf is led by his experiments to an extension of the doctrine of the Nancy school asserting the identity of normal and hypnotic sleep, to the identity as well of the normal and hypnotic waking states.

*Étude sur l'hypnotisme et la suggestion.* RIFAT. *Ibid.*

The author contends for the genuineness of Charcot's three stages, but believes them true not only of hypnotic, but also of narcotic and natural sleep. He considers also that these three kinds of sleep are all essentially the same, and under proper circumstances show the same phenomena.

*Traitement de l'aliénation mentale par la suggestion hypnotique.* AUGUSTE VOISIN. *Ibid.*, May, 1888.

This article is a paper read at a meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Sciences, at Oran. The author, who is physician in chief at the Salpêtrière, tells of two cases of mania of persecution, in one of which he was able to give relief and in the other to cure by hypnotization and suggestion; also of a case of dipsomania of twelve years standing successfully treated in the same way. All three were women. He has been able in two other cases to avoid the excessive violence accompanying menstruation by hypnotizing the patients and suggesting that they sleep through that period.

*Sur un cas de tics convulsifs avec écholalie et coprolalie.* BUROT. *Ibid.*

This case, once before presented (*Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, Oct., 1887) by Dr. Burot, is again produced to show the action of a purely moral treatment, leading to striking improvement and prospective recovery. The patient is a young woman of good family and education, who had suffered for several years from convulsive attacks in the face and limbs, with enforced utterance of cries and obscene words, together with a tendency to repeat certain words and imitate things seen and heard. The treatment was by persistent "persuasion," that is, suggestion after a somewhat hypnotic manner, though that state was apparently not produced; by counting the movements that she made and making her count them; by having her repeat (auto-suggestion) such phrases as, I shall want to control myself all alone—I will not be forced to say any bad words, etc., and by other similar means. There are in the disease, the doctor thinks, two chief factors, the enfeeblement of the conscious cerebral control and the exaggeration of the automatic functions. The "moral gymnastics" were intended to break up the vicious habits of the automaton and restore to the higher centres their lost control.